

In the Specification:

The second paragraph of the Background on page 1 has been amended to read as follows:

B<sup>1</sup> -- On the tongue and the buccal mucosa, the natural resident microflora includes microorganisms selected from Streptococcus, Veillonella, Bacteroides, and Haemophilus. On the teeth, Streptococcus, Lactobacillus and Actinomyces ~~Streptococci, Lactobacilli and Actinomyces~~ predominate but a variety of Gram positive and negative cocci and rods can be also found. --

The Abstract on page 24 has been amended to read as follows:

B<sup>2</sup> -- The present invention provides compositions ~~Compositions~~ for the prophylaxis or treatment of dental caries, dental plaque, and periodontal infection that include lactic bacteria that are not part of the resident microflora of the mouth, that are low acidifying, and that are capable of adhering directly to the pellicle of the teeth. Preferably, the lactic bacteria of the include one or more of Streptococcus thermophilus, Lactococcus lactis subsp. lactis, or Lactococcus lactis subsp. lactis biovar diacetylactis. The compositions are used in methods of treating or preventing dental caries, dental plaque, and periodontal infection. --

A copy of the abstract appears on a separate page attached to the end of this amendment.